



TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH

2200 East Main Road / Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871

(401) 643-0332 / www.portsmouthri.gov

TO: Honorable Town Council
Richard Rainer, Town Administrator
FROM: Lea Hitchen, Town Planner
SUBJECT: RIDOT Pavement Improvements –East Main Road/ Roundabout at Rt. 138/Turnpike Avenue project
DATE: November 17, 2023

The RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT) will soon be advancing the pavement improvement project along East Main Road and traffic enhancements in the form of a roundabout at the intersection of Route 138 and Turnpike Avenue to the RFP (Request For Proposal) stage. The RIDOT has inquired about the Town's preferences in regard to certain issues, such as the allowance of nighttime work and modifications to traffic flow from the southern Middletown town boundary to the northern East Main Road at Carol Terrace and Turnpike Avenue with the least disruption to the Town's residents and businesses. The RIDOT is requesting approval from the Town Council on whether the Town would permit night work along the East Main Road corridor or only in certain areas. The Town could restrict night work to exclude certain areas near residential neighborhoods. The Town should also take into consideration day work, specifically, taking into account bus schedules and the proposed roundabout being in the vicinity of various schools.

Included below is some information on the impact of night work.

Issues with Night Work:

- Back up alarms
- Construction Noise: saw-cutting, demolition, truck bodies slamming, and paving operations
- Disruption of residents' schedules, including sleep
- Additional truck traffic through Town at night
- Reduced productivity of construction crews
- Project timeline is longer

Benefits with Night Work

- Reduce negative impacts on local businesses
- Residents will have uninterrupted access to intersections
- School Bus schedules uninterrupted

- Traffic Management Plan has been designed by RIDOT consultant with experience in this work

NEEDS:

- Advance signage notifying drivers of project, seek alternate routes, expect delays
- Additional signage that area businesses are open
- Work with RIDOT to have those construction operations with greatest impacts limited to daytime, such as saw cutting, demolition.

The Portsmouth Police Department will provide the necessary details to allow for continuous travel during all construction hours.

Note that local utility companies may also be attempting to complete work at night in advance of RIDOT's scheduled improvements.